



Recreation and Parks Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday ~ May 16, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.

McKinley Arts & Culture Center
925 Riverside Drive
Reno, NV 89503

MEMBERS

Thomas Petersen, Chair
Erik Scalise, Vice Chair
Nate Daniel
Jaime Edrosa
Deborah Enos
Troy Harsh
David Pritchett
Tom Stille
Gerry Taylor

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Petersen, Eric Scalise, Jaime Edrosa, Deborah Enos, Troy Harsh, David Pritchett, Tom Stille and Gerry Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nate Daniel

POSITIONS VACANT: No positions vacant

COUNCIL LIAISON: Council Member Jenny Brekhus - absent

STAFF ALSO PRESENT: Andy Bass, Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Services ("PRCS") – absent
Jeff Mann, Parks Manager
Leslie Smith, Administrative Secretary
Aric Jensen, Director, Community Development

2. Public Comment – This item is for either public comment on any action item or for general public comment and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

Andrew Barbano, First Vice President of the Reno-Sparks NAACP, introduced himself and colleagues Larry Wilson, Reno-Sparks NAACP and President of the United Autoworkers Local 2162 Retirees, and Bob Bueno, current President of the United Autoworkers Local 2162. He updated the Commission on the progress of the "Fight of the Century" plaque to be placed at Moana Springs and the proposed language to go on the plaque. The request for this memorial is made on behalf of George Nelson, a lifelong boxing aficionado and boxing historian. Mr. Barbano shared some of the history of the memorable 1910 fight and the connection to the Reno community. The construction of the plaque will be of aluminum instead of bronze since bronze is a highly desirable metal to thieves. The dedication of the plaque will be approximate to July 4th since it is the 107th anniversary of the fight. The proposed language for the plaque was given to the Commissioners for review. No action was taken because the item was not agendaized. Mr. Barbano will also nominate the Fight of the Century in the City's 150th anniversary celebration as the biggest event in Reno's history. If the Commission has questions for Mr. Barbano, they can contact him directly.

3. Approval of Minutes for April 18, 2017 Recreation and Parks Commission (“RPC”) meeting (For Possible Action)

It was moved by Commissioner Harsh; seconded by Commissioner Pritchett to accept the Minutes from the April 18, 2017 Recreation and Parks Commission meeting as presented. The motion carried: Commissioners Petersen, Scalise, Edrosa, Enos, Harsh, Pritchett, Stille and Taylor assenting; Commissioner Daniel absent for the motion; and no vacant positions.

4. Presentation on *Take Care Campaign* – Christi Cakiroglu, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Christi Cakiroglu, Executive Director of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (“KTMB”), shared information about the Take Pride Campaign, and explained that she is a representative of the One Truckee River organization. The One Truckee River Initiative is a partnership between the Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. The Take Care Campaign developed as an outgrowth of issues that aligned with various service organizations and government entities in Tahoe as it relates to litter, dog feces, and whether people are using the natural resources appropriately. With shared concerns, the group is working together on common issues through the Take Care Campaign. They are interested in using the One Truckee River Initiative in the Truckee Meadows, to include the City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County. They want to take and expand on something that has been working. The Take Care Campaign is using humor through artwork to bring these issues to light and get people’s attention. She shared a power point presentation showing some of the signs being used in the Tahoe area for messaging purposes. A Master Signage Plan would be created to address all of the regulations and standards for all of the municipalities along the river and make sure all policies are tied together. She is giving this presentation to the RPC to make sure they approve of the messaging and the direction they are going with the plan. The One Truckee River Initiative has partners in Tahoe who have offered to produce the signs at a very good rate. There was discussion from the Commission about standard signage along the river and extending the message to include cigarette trash and dogs off leash, as well as the educational side of the creative signage for children. Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, said ideally the City of Sparks and Washoe County will also participate, but if not, the City of Reno will move forward working with KTMB and One Truckee River Initiative. Parks has a need to update the standard signs but will wait to do all signs at once.

5. Presentation on *Adopt-A-Park Program* – Christi Cakiroglu, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Christi Cakiroglu introduced David Bianchi, Past President of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (“KTMB”) and one of the founders of KTMB. Mr. Bianchi shared the history of KTMB and the creation of the Adopt-A-Park Program. Ms. Cakiroglu said the program changed from doing park clean up on one day in many parks throughout the City to focusing on one park on one day. It was a more practical plan for Parks staff who were having to travel to every park in Reno on a particular day. KTMB receives calls and inquiries from volunteer organizations who want to participate in park clean up events. She gave a handout listing clean-up projects since July 1, 2016. They have had 559 volunteers participate. KTMB and the City of Reno have partnered in creating, maintaining and improving the Sensory Garden at Idlewild Park since 2012. KTMB was one of the first partners with the Dog Waste Initiative. Dog waste in parks is a health issue and through the Initiative, they have tried to raise community awareness

about the problem. They also do flower plantings, weed pulls and trash pickup based on the needs of Park staff. They work with companies who are interested in participating in KTMB projects and who want to sponsor events. KTMB uses social media to get the word out about upcoming events. The One Truckee River website does advertising and promoting and keeps everyone aware of activities and events happening with different entities on the river. In the past, the One Truckee River Initiative has been lead by Nevada Land Trust and KTMB. They are working on creating a separate stand-alone entity. They are working with the National Parks Service.

6. Business Items (For Possible Action):

a. Presentation and discussion regarding the City's policy for the disposition of City-owned real property – Aric Jensen, Director, Community Development

Aric Jensen, Director of City of Reno Community Development, gave a presentation on the City's policies for accepting and disposing of real property. The City is concerned about the cost of maintaining parks and open space. In the past, the City has accepted land indiscriminately without determining what was valuable and less valuable to the City. Now, when the City acquires land, whether purchased or donated, an analysis of the potential acquisition will be performed. This will entail the actual cost to the City to accept the land, whether or not the City can afford to maintain the land in perpetuity, and can the land be maintained to a standard that is acceptable to the citizens. As a result of these concerns, two policies were created. One relates to the acquisition of property (Policy #319) and the other relates to the disposition of City-owned property (Policy #316). When accepting property, it also includes accepting the liabilities that come with that property. Liabilities would include such things as the maintenance of the property, if someone gets injured on the property, the property catches fire and spreads to adjacent homes, to name a few. The policy states that the City is to analyze potential costs and benefits of the property before the property is accepted. One of the driving forces behind these policies is the growth that is currently taking place.

The purpose of the Disposition of City-Owned Real Property policy states that the policy is set up 1) to establish a procedure by which unused and marginally used City-owned real property is reviewed for its potential public use, and for designating unneeded parcels for sale or lease; and 2) to provide methodology for the sale or lease of City-owned realty property. It is guided by the Nevada Revised Statutes and Reno Municipal Code. The goals of this policy are to encourage the development and reuse of vacant properties consistent with the City's Master Plan, and other City-approved and accepted plans; eliminate blight and revitalize neighborhoods; strengthen the City's tax base; convey land through predictable, timely and transparent process; encourage timely development and discourage non-strategic real estate development; and retain, as practical, those properties deemed to be of significant historical value. There was discussion by the Commission regarding the disposition of parks that came before the Commission in the recent past. Some of the parks were deed-restricted and could not be sold unless the original owner of the property removed the restriction. This policy will give guidance to the Commission to make future recommendations. The process for the sale or lease of City-owned property is also outlined in the policy. There was further discussion concerning the vague language in the Disposition of City-Owned Real Property policy to protect park lands from being sold at-will if they are not deed restricted. Any sale of park land would probably have to come before the RPC for review, there would be a public venue, such as a City Council meeting, for the public to speak on the matter, and any opposition to it would be presented at such a public venue. It was asked if the outcome of the

sale of Brodhead Park would have been different if the Commission had this policy to guide them. Director Jensen assured the Commission that they will have more information to make future decisions as a result of this policy. The Master Plan is the document that identifies key areas of preservation and there will be a Parks and Recreation element. The protections to preserve lands or to identify lands that should not be preserved will be in the Master Plan. The point of the policies is to have transparency, a process, and consistency. Commissioner Pritchett brought to the attention of the Commission that there is an open website poll seeking community input on the Master Plan through www.reimaginereno.us/. He asked that the website address be sent to Commissioners.

b. Presentation and discussion on proposed Truckee Meadows Water Authority (“TMWA”) Parkway Grant – Jeff Mann, Parks Manager

Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, updated the Commission on a water conservation grant received from TMWA. Conceptual drawings were created for use by private property owners to convert their parkway strip from high-water-use turf landscape to low-water-use decorative landscape. Working with a local landscape architect, four concepts were created which could apply to medians to be used by any residential property owner. TMWA reviewed and approved the concepts. These parkway medians would be maintained by the adjacent property owners.

c. Presentation and discussion regarding closed park restrooms, the reasons for restroom closures and issues concerning destruction and vandalism of park restrooms – Jeff Mann, Parks Manager

Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, updated the Commission on the closure of park bathrooms. Park bathrooms are closed at night to help prevent vandalism and damage. There are 58 bathrooms in the City’s parks (from Stead to Damonte Ranch). Nineteen bathrooms are closed during the winter months because they are not heated and to prevent water pipes from freezing and breaking. They are also closed if they have been severely vandalized or damaged and the water had to be turned off or if a bathroom has been repeatedly targeted by someone with the intent to destroy the bathroom. That bathroom is closed until that offender moves on from the park and, unfortunately, that could take a long time if that person is not apprehended. There is currently one employee who closes and locks the bathrooms each night. There are 23 bathrooms with manual locks so that person has to go to each bathroom to lock it at night; they are not automated. The employee has to start locking bathrooms between 4:00-5:00 p.m. to get them all locked before the parks close. There are 35 bathrooms that have auto-locks, but it has happened that people will go into the bathroom knowing they will be locked in at night and they sleep there. Parks is adding more auto-locks to bathrooms each year. There are cameras in some locations that are moderately effective. Staff is looking into different ways to keep people from vandalizing bathrooms at night. Council Member Brekhus’s suggestion from a previous meeting of having a park host was brought up. Mr. Mann said that this option is being reviewed at the direction of City Council.

7. Council Liaison Report – Council Member Jenny Brekhus – *No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.*

None.

8. Staff Liaison Report/Updates – Updates will be given about general Department operations including, but not limited to, Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center Pool; Pembroke Recreational Complex; Sky Tavern Update and Site Visit; Sierra Vista Park; Miguel Ribera Skate Park; Smoke-Free Parks; Budget Process.

Jeff Mann, Parks Manager, gave the Commission an update on the Sky Tavern agreement. It is going to City Council on June 7, 2017. Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center pool roof construction has begun. It is expected to be completed in the fall. A contractor has been hired to remove asbestos at Traner Pool which came about because of the extensive damage to the facility by vandals. Aric Jensen shared that the City is currently looking to raise about \$200,000 to make additional improvements to the facility.

9. Commissioner/Liaison Reports & Announcements – *No action may be taken on announcements. Limited to items that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda.*

Commissioner Stille asked about the attempt to change the City logo a while ago.

Leslie Smith updated the Commission on the Smoke-Free Park group meeting with City of Sparks and Washoe County. The entities are currently working out some details before the meeting can be scheduled.

Commissioner Petersen shared with the Commission that the June RPC meeting needs to be moved to June 6th because there is an item that has to go before City Council on June 14th but needs to come to the RPC first. The Commission agreed to the changed meeting date.

Commissioner Edrosa inquired as to whether the Commission would be attending an Aces Baseball game this season as in previous years.

Commissioner Petersen received a donation of dog waste bags from Scraps Dog Food Company. He also received donated coupons to be distributed to citizens who are cleaning up after their dogs as a thank you.

10. Identify Agenda Items for Future Meetings – Moana Springs Aquatic Center Project; Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway; Dogs in Parks; Donated Dog Waste Bags; Incentive Ideas for Dog Owners.

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful – Update on KTMB's progress to create a separate stand-alone organization with the assistance of the National Parks Service.

List of parks for park tour in September.

10. Public Comment – This is for general public comment limited to items that do not appear on the agenda and is limited to no more than three (3) minutes for each commentator.

None.

11. Adjournment (For possible action)

It was moved by Commissioner Edrosa; seconded by Commissioner Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried: Commissioners Petersen, Scalise, Enos, Edrosa, Harsh, Pritchett, Stille and Taylor assenting; Commissioner Daniel absent for the motion; and no vacant positions.